Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and avoid any problems in the future in the successful opeation of the project. It would take about 30-36 months for completion of the project after financial closure.

Supply of LPG

573. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage in the supply of liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for domestic purpose in the month of January and February, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to resolve the same; and

(d) the quantity of LPG supplied to various States in total, for commercial and cooking purpose for the last six months, month-wise category-wise, and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indegenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period-April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country in the months of January & February, 2008 due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(d) OMCs have reported they have supplied 5254 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG and 302 TMT of non-domestic LPG during the period from August, 2007 to January, 2008 in the country. The State-wise and month-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

Investment of by Oil PSUs

574. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's major oil PSUs including ONGC, OVL, IOC, HPCL, BPCL and GAIL will together invest more than Rs. 2,69,000 crore in next five years;

(b) whether the proposed investment would be in domestic oil and gas hunt, overseas acquisition and expansion of refineries during Eleventh Plan period;